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## CONCERNING SOME STITCHES.

THE St. Andrew's stitch always implies a cross in the shape of an  $\times$ , but being used in several branches of needlework, it bears in each a distinct definition. Church embroideresses find it very valuable for imparting a soft and full edge to satin stitch, besides its advantage of saving silk. In woolwork it is wrought like cross-stitch, but longer: instead of taking up two threads only, it occupies four in height. Overlay it with a straight or Greek cross, and you have the well-known point de diable. Crochet, too, has its St. Andrew's cross, made in several ways. This cross is also often met with in the lace fillings of Irish point; thus in point d'Alençon it joins two braids or cordonnets, in point d'Angleterre it extends over every mesh of the lattice-work. We have therefore at least five adaptations of the St. Andrew's cross.

strands, plain or parti-colored, and sewn together with the largest one in the centre, while the two others, called "agrément," were twisted into picots or pearls, jutting out like thorns, and usually fashioned on the pillow. With this triple gimp were reproduced flowers, arabesques, scrolls, coral branches, vermicelli designs, etc. In such meanderings gold and silver often entwine. At the South Kensington Museum there is an exquisite sample of this kind—an Italian altar-cloth of the seventeenth century, framed by insertion and a Vandyked border with every pearl of pure gold. Lined with bright silk, this cloth would show admirably in any drawing-room. The modes or filling of this colored guipure consists of the sexagonal point de tulle in sewing-silk. In former days it was lavished on gorgeous dresses, and, little by little, restricted to church and furniture decoration, finally being no longer wrought. A few samples of English manufacture are

scores of mythological pictures in enamel of the finest quality, the painting in every instance being executed with the utmost delicacy. The top of the horn is in itself a marvellous work of art, with its charming miniatures, numerous tiny sculptures in silver, relieved by curious arabesques and interspersed with precious stones. The cornucopiæ is entirely of silver, although it is completely covered with enamel. Every portion as large as a pin's head is thus decorated, and even the bottom of the stand is carefully finished in the same lavish fashion.

NOTHING finer in pierced open metal-work is made in the United States than some lately executed by Schneider, Campbell & Co. It is introduced with good effect in their gas fixtures, and is applied to a variety of objects for general decoration. A screen of Japanese embroidery, with a pierced metal border of Persian design in old-gold and old-silver, as an object of artistic workmanship, would be creditable to any house or any country. A set of sconces have been made to match it. During his stay in Paris this summer, Mr. Schneider purchased for the house some admirable bronzes, which are now on exhibition. Perhaps the most beautiful is the statue of



FIG. 3.—"THE SOLDIER."



FIG. 4.—"THE HUNTSMAN."

CEILING DECORATIONS BY FRANZ WIDNMANN IN THE PLAYROOM OF PRINCE LEOPOLD'S PALACE AT MUNICH.

Another stitch abundant in Irish guipure is the needle-made point d'Espagne or de Venise, which no doubt suggested square crochet. Truly, in looking over your specimens of Irish lace, you will recognize all the elementary designs in which children make their first attempt at crochet, only, instead of the chain produced by the hook, there will be a twist made by the needle. Here open squares fill up an arabesque, there long bars alternate with holes as the checked ground of a flower. These bars, known as treble point d'Espagne, answer to the ordinary or long trebles, according to whether the needle has coiled round the fundamental thread two, three, or four times. For the open squares, the foundation is easily laid into the braid by a row of loops, round the right side of which the needle twists once or twice. Still point d'Espagne, in its strict definition, corresponds with the ancient passementière or gimp, in the same style as the Ragusa guipure. The gimp employed was a satiny cord of three

still to be met with here and there, either as galloons, valances, or motifs for application, principally in the form of conventional flowers.

## Among the Dealers.

THERE is a curious French clock of Japanese design at Schneider, Campbell & Co.'s. It is constructed in the form of a china vase, the front being cut away to show the movement. The face is of cloisonné, as is also the top of the stand which supports the vase.

A VERITABLE chef d'œuvre of Limoges enamel, of which it would be difficult to find a rival even in a museum, has just been sold by Watson & Co. for a very large sum of money. It represents a cornucopiæ, more than a foot in height, resting on the back of a silver-gilt Hercules, and on the object are

Undine, by A. Carrie. The water-nymph, whose lovely form is a marvel of delicate modelling, is represented in the act of pushing aside the rushes which obstruct her view, and peering through them. The deliciously warm color of the bronze lends additional grace to the master's work. "The Jockey," by Isidore Bonheur, a copy of the sculptor's admirable work in the Salon of 1879, and Fremiet's "St. Michael," also from the Salon, compete for admiration with Carrier Belleuse's strongly conceived bust of Michael Angelo and Waagen's well grouped "Algerian Shepherd's Return." The mounted shepherd holds up a tiger's head to the view of the baying dogs, and a dead sheep lying on his saddle before him tells the story of his loss and vengeance. L. Gregoire's "Perseus and Andromeda," a superb work in silver bronze, about forty inches in height, occupies a prominent position in the store, and attracts much attention.

THE imported embroidered plushes such as have been very popular for small table-cloths, cosies, mats, and tidies, have been cleverly reproduced by Messrs. Lord and Taylor, at very low prices. The designs are worked in arrasene, and bullion thread. Crimson and old gold and olive and old gold are the usual fashions.